



Sheila Dixon

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Baltimore Awarded 100,000 Preserve America Grant for Thurgood Marshall's First Public School

Baltimore, MD (October 2, 2007) – Mayor Sheila Dixon announced that the Department of Interior awarded the City of Baltimore \$100,000 through its Preserve America grants to conduct research and documentation necessary to prepare and fabricate interpretive exhibits at the Henry Highland Garnett School. Exhibits will illuminate the years in which Thurgood Marshall, the country's first African American Supreme Court Justice, was educated in Baltimore.

"This grant will help provide an unparalleled opportunity for learning about the legacy of Thurgood Marshall, Baltimore's segregated past, as well as the rich cultural heritage of the Upton community," said Mayor Dixon. "I envision a cultural center that will carry on Thurgood Marshall's pursuit of justice and equal educational opportunities for all children."

Mayor Dixon approved \$250,000 in the 2008 capital budget for feasibility assessment for the adaptive reuse of PS 103, the former Highland Garnett School. It is the elementary school attended by Thurgood Marshall from 1914-1920; his first experience with segregated public schools. The school stands just three blocks from the rowhouse where Marshall and his family lived the six years he attend the school. The school is located in the Pennsylvania Avenue Target Investment Zone of the Baltimore City Heritage Area and adjacent to the Pennsylvania Avenue Main Street.

"This money will assist Baltimore's effort to use this one of a kind historic school to educate visitors and Baltimoreans about our nation's past and help support the economic vitality of the Upton community," said Deputy Mayor Andrew Frank. "Baltimore has an extraordinary national story to tell and through heritage tourism. The history of the Highland Garnett School can become an economic engine for Upton's future success."

The Preserve America grants for Fiscal Year 2007 were awarded to 29 recipients nationwide totaling more than \$2.2 million. The Preserve America program is administered by the Department of the Interior's National Park Service in partnership with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. These competitive dollar-for-dollar grants fund designated Preserve America Communities, State Historic Preservation

Offices and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices to support preservation efforts through heritage tourism, education and historic preservation planning.

First Lady Laura Bush is the Honorary Chair of Preserve America, a White House initiative that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy our nation's cultural and natural heritage.

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